

Deviant Biography!

POINTS: 25

Objective: To think critically about deviance as it pertains to your own life.

Directions: Write a short paper/journal where you describe specific example of a situation where your personal characteristics, attitudes, behavior, or group membership were defined as unacceptable because it/they did not conform to the expectations of others, meaning that you were deviant. If you cannot think of a time where your actions have been considered deviant, here are a couple of alternatives that you can attempt. **DO NOT ATTEMPT TO BREAK ANY LAWS OR DO SOMETHING THAT PUTS YOU IN DANGER.**

HERE ARE A FEW SUGGESTIONS for deviant behavior:

1. go into a clothing store wearing very dirty/messy clothes and try to seek assistance.
2. wear an old Halloween costume around for a day (as long as it is appropriate) and observe others' reactions.
3. for several hours, when you talk to people, make sure your head is either facing the left or the right, and never looking directly at the people you are talking to.
4. speak loudly on the cell phone whenever you out in public about things that should be private—breaking up with boy/girl friend, STD test results, etc.
5. go up the stairs on the traditional wrong side
6. in the elevator, face the back wall of the elevator every time you enter the elevator
7. shop at a traditional store (Target/Walmart) and ask them to give you a better price/negotiate as if at a flea market

The paper needs to be one to two pages. It should be typed in a size twelve-font double spaced. If you do not have a computer available to you, I can make arrangements for you to use one, or please write legibly. If any problems arise let me know.

Make sure you address all the following in your paper. NOT DOING SO WILL CAUSE YOU TO LOSE POINTS!

- A. In order to establish deviance, you must first explain what it is that you are deviating from. Show clearly and specifically what the group or institution you confronted defined as normal. (Example picking your nose in public is considered deviant; you are deviating from our manners and etiquette in our society. In our culture picking your nose is deemed inappropriate and crude).
- B. Explain how and why this group could see your non-conformity as threatening to their values or interests. Why did they find it so necessary to focus on and negatively sanction your difference?
- C. What were/are the social consequences of this deviance for you? How did the group members try to bring you back in line with their expectations or move you out of the group's activities?
- D. What identity or self-perception crisis came out of this experience for you?

Topics / Score	Advanced (5)	Proficient (4)	Basic (3.5)	Below Basic (3.25)	Deficient (2.5)	0
Deviant From	Very clearly explained what you were deviating from and what the group that you confronted defined as normal.	Explained what you were deviating from and what the group that you confronted defined as normal.	Partially explained what you were deviating from and what the group that you confronted defined as normal.	Poorly explained what you were deviating from and what the group that you confronted defined as normal.	Written but off-topic	Non-existent.
How Behavior Threatened	Very Well explained how the behavior was threatening to the confronted group.	Explained how the behavior was threatening to the confronted group.	Partially explained how the behavior was threatening to the confronted group.	Poorly explained how the behavior was threatening to the confronted group.	Written but off-topic.	Non-existent
Social Consequence	Excellent articulation of the social consequences of the deviance, and subsequent actions taken by the main group.	Articulation of the social consequences of the deviance, and subsequent actions taken by the main group.	Partial articulation of the social consequences of the deviance, and subsequent actions taken by the main group.	Poor articulation of the social consequences of the deviance, and subsequent actions taken by the main group.	Written but off-topic.	Non-existent
Identity Effect/Self Perception	Discussed with clarity the effect it had on your identity or self perception	Discussed the effect it had on your identity or self perception	Partially discussed the effect it had on your identity or self perception	Poorly discussed the effect it had on your identity or self perception	Written but off-topic.	Non-existent
Clarity & Mechanics	All areas covered, typed, and free of errors.	Most areas covered, typed, and free of errors	Some areas covered, typed, and a few errors.	Limited effort, typed with many errors.	Limited effort, hand written with multiple errors	Sloppy and poorly done / non-existent

Student Name: _____

Points: _____

Comments: